

## Recommendation for pipeline pig / polyurethane care and storage

### Storage of Pipeline Pigs

Pipeline pigs and consumables are constructed using the best quality polyurethanes. They are extremely durable and should have a long shelf life. However, you can maximize their useful life by storing them properly:

1. Sunlight, extreme temperatures, and humidity can cause polyurethanes to deteriorate. For these reasons, pipeline pigs should be stored in a cool, dry, dark area if possible.
2. Polyurethanes, like most elastomers, will deform if subjected to a constant load on one area. Pigs should not be left lying on their sides (the sealing elements) for long periods of time. Instead, they should be stood on end.

### End of Useful Life

Pipeline pigs are a consumable product and wear out as they are used. Depending on the pig type and application, each pig may be useful for only one run or may be useful for dozens of trips through the pipeline.

We recommend inspecting each pipeline pig before use:

1. Visually inspect the pig for damage such as cuts, tears, and perforations. Look for signs of wear (even or uneven) along the sealing surfaces.
2. Flex the pig to identify cracks and to check for brittleness.
3. Measure the diameter of the pig using a diameter tape (measuring tape that wraps around the circumference of a circle but displays the diameter measurement). Alternatively, the circumference can be measured directly and then divided by 3.1416 to calculate the average diameter.

***The diameter of the pig should be larger than the inside diameter of the pipeline!*** It must be larger in order to seal properly and clean effectively, and the amount of oversize required depends on the size of the pig, the pig type, and the application. Generally speaking, the pig should be 3% oversized, but that number can be smaller in large diameter lines and may be significantly greater with smaller lines (especially when using foam pigs or swabs).

4. Discard any pigs that are worn or damaged.